I claim:

1.   An elastic bandage, comprising:

(a)   an elongate warp-knitted fabric substrate including a lock stitch formed in opposing side edges of the fabric substrate to prevent fraying;

(b)   the substrate comprising cotton and elastic yarns in a warp direction;

(c)   the substrate comprising weft-inserted yarns in weft direction, the weft-inserted yarns comprising cotton; and

(d)   an adhesive coated onto or impregnated into the substrate.

2.   An elastic bandage according to claim 1, wherein the cotton yarns comprise at least 97 percent of the total knitted weight of the fabric substrate.

3.   An elastic bandage according to claim 1, wherein the warp yarns are selected from the group consisting of single ply yarns and double ply yarns.

4.   An elastic bandage according to claim 1, wherein the weft-inserted yarns are between 600-800 Decitex.

5.   An elastic bandage according to claim 1, wherein the lock stitch is formed of polyester yarn.

6.   An elastic bandage according to claim 1, wherein the weight of the fabric substrate is between 200-250 grams per square meter.

7.   An elastic bandage according to claim 1, wherein the weight of the fabric substrate is 230 grams per square meter.

8.   An elastic bandage according to claim 1, wherein the elastic yarns comprise a manufactured fiber in which the fiber forming substance is a long-chain synthetic polymer comprised of at least 85% of a segmented polyurethane.

9.   An elastic bandage according to claim 1, wherein the bandage has stretch of between 85-95 percent.

10.   An elastic bandage according to claim 1, wherein the bandage has a regain of 50-60 percent.

11.   An elastic bandage according to claim 1, wherein said adhesive comprises a pressure-sensitive adhesive.

12.   An elastic bandage according to claim 1, wherein said adhesive comprises a coadhesive.

13. An elastic bandage according to claim 1, wherein said adhesive is discontinuously applied onto one side of the fabric substrate to thereby leave exposed areas of the substrate for the passage of air therethrough.

14. An elastic bandage, comprising:

(a) an elongate warp-knitted fabric substrate including a lock stitch formed in opposing side edges of the fabric substrate to prevent fraying;

(b) the substrate comprising cotton yarns and elastic yarns in a warp direction;

(c) the substrate comprising weft-inserted yarns in weft direction, the weft-inserted yarns comprising cotton; and

(d) a coadhesive coated onto one side of the substrate.

15. An elastic bandage according to claim 14, wherein the cotton yarns define a cross-sectional area greater than the elastic yarns.

16. An elastic bandage according to claim 14, wherein the fabric substrate includes an elastic yarn and a pair of cotton yarns lying on respective opposing sides of the elastic yarn to cover and inclose the elastic yarn within a layer of inelastic yarns.

17. An elastic bandage according to claim 16, wherein the pair of cotton yarns have opposite twist directions so that adjacent cotton yarns lying on opposite sides of adjacent elastic yarns have the same direction of twist.

18.   An elastic bandage according to claim 14, wherein the adhesive is blown onto the fabric substrate to form a discontinuous adhesive layer to allow the bandage to breathe.

19.   A method of forming an elastic bandage, comprising the steps of:

(a)   warp-knitting an elongate fabric substrate including a lock stitch formed in opposing side edges of the fabric substrate to prevent fraying, the substrate comprising cotton yarns and elastic yarns in the warp direction and weft-inserted cotton yarns in the weft direction;

(b)   applying an adhesive onto one side of the substrate; and

(c)   forming the substrate with the adhesive thereon into a roll.

20.   A method according to claim 19, wherein the step of applying the adhesive comprises the step of applying a coadhesive discontinuously to the substrate to permit passage of air through the bandage.